

From: Steve Werlin [<mailto:divingdoc@hughes.net>]
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2007 6:23 AM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Closure Areas

To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the proposed MLPA closure areas being considered for the northern California coast. The choice between closing Gerstle Cove to Black Point vs. Black Point to Gualala seems to pit the interests of the many against the interests of the few. Specifically, Salt Point and its environs provide excellent access, parking, and facilities to the many daytime visitors, campers, divers, kayak fishermen, and tourists who wish to use our coastline. It provides safe access to the shore for those with small, inflatable boats or kayaks and many safe areas to fish and dive. The Sea Ranch area, on the other hand, provides very limited public access and even more limited parking with fewer safe areas to fish and dive. Also, by keeping the Sea Ranch area open and closing the Salt Point area, you are really bowing to the pressures and desires of those in the Sea Ranch community who have unlimited parking and access to this area. There are several people who consider the Sea Ranch area their private domain for hunting for trophy abalone, etc. and their desire to keep this area open can not occur at the expense of those who do not live at Sea Ranch and who feel the Salt Point area is truly the area which serves the greatest common/public good.

Please keep the Gerstle Cove to Black Point area open and close the Black Point to Gualala area.

Thank you,

Steven Werlin, M.D